CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

Graduate Studies News

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Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology

From the Dean's Desk: The New GA

The renovations of the Graduate Administration Building at 2145 MacKay Street are almost complete and will provide a friendly, efficient and effective environment for both students and faculty. In addition to these physical modifications, the GA has undergone major personnel changes due to promotions, transfers and resignations.

As always, the busiest office is the admissions department. In order to cope with the growing volume of activity with our existing staff, we have introduced new procedures that should enable us to open and update application files more quickly and to respond to student enquiries in a more efficient manner. Students who visit graduate admissions will notice that we have created a special reception window on the first floor. Eva Fillion, an admissions secretary fluent in English, French, and Spanish, has been assigned to the task of answering student and faculty enquiries about the status of application files. Her telephone number is 3804. Under Stephanie Manuel's direction, the remaining staff of the admissions department, consisting of Pat Donahue, Lori Dupuis, Arlene Leblanc, and Nancy Nicholson, will concentrate on the processing of student applications. They will interact directly with the graduate program directors of the programs for which they are responsible. In addition, Stephanie Manuel will continue to be the GA contact for student requests.

The awards office has been relocated in an expansive new environment in S-01. Its main function will be the advising of potential graduate students on scholarship and fellowship opportunities for graduate studies. A consultation area has been created that should be able to cope with large numbers of enquiries. The 1988-89 Graduate Awards Booklet has also been updated and completely restructured to provide faster and better access to awards information. The office is currently designing sample applications and sample letters of reference to help students and professors in the process of preparing good awards applications. Special awareness seminars for students interested in applying for graduate awards are also planned for this fall and will be appropriately advertised. The awards office is staffed by Madeleine Yates (3809) and her secretary, France Brassard (3801).

The thesis and publications offices have been busy over the summer and the fruits of their labour will be visible in the months to come. The offices are staffed by Debbie MacFadden and her new secretary, Anne-Marie Laurin. They can be reached at (3808 or 3813). Under Debbie's guidance, the Graduate Calendar for 1989-90 is being redesigned and will have a new look and structure that should make it a much more accessible and user-friendly document. A separate Rules and Regulations Booklet consisting of frequently

required hard facts from the Calendar will be published. Moreover, the Thesis Guide is being rewritten and will contain specific information on the thesis examination process. Taken in conjunction, these documents should help to reduce the number of essential student requests reaching the GA. In addition, the publications office is putting the final touches on the Graduate Studies Guide. This booklet will appear later this fall, both in English and French, and will provide the desperately needed informal introduction to our graduate program repertoire.

Our new receptionist is Darlene Dubiel. She can be reached at (3800) and will deal with all general enquiries.

As our new bilingual personnel become familiar with names, faces and procedures, the GA will be able to continue its tradition as one of the most accessible and service-oriented units of the university.

M. E. Szabo (Dean)

M.A. in experimental psychology

Both students and faculty in the graduate programs in Psychology have acquired an international reputation for the calibre of their research and publications.

According to Shimon Amir, director of the master's in Experimental Psychology, what distinguishes his program (and the Psychology department in general) is the quality and motivation of its faculty.

"The program in psychology is young compared to other schools," he says. "As a result, the faculty involved in research are highly motivated. It is a very active department and this is reflected in the high number of yearly publications.

Students entering the M.A. in Experimental Psychology are following research science as a career path and serve something like an apprenticeship under a professor with similar research interests. Usually they come from honours programs in psychology, although Amir says there are occasional crossover students from other disciplines, such as a biology student who wants to look at problems in psychology from a biological perspective. Almost all students in the master's program go on to doctoral research, many opting to stay at Concordia.

The emphasis in the M.A. program is on research. Of a 45 credit program, 30 credits are devoted to research and a thesis. The remaining courses are in statistical methods, selected topics in psychology and laboratory seminars.

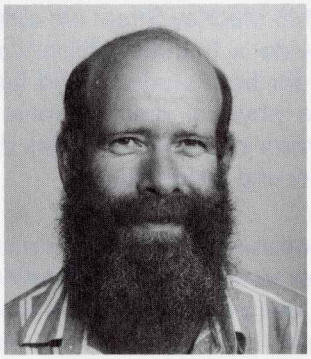
Amir says the student research depends "on the particular interest of each supervisor. One of the things that happens is a kind of marriage between a student and a particular supervisor with specific interests."

Research at the M.A. level is usually related to studies in either the Centre for Studies in Behaviorial Neurobiology (CSBN) or the Centre for Research in Human Development (CRHD).

At the CSBN, research includes studies on brain mechanism of reinforcement behaviour and the role of hormones in sex-related behaviour. But the Centre is perhaps best known for its work in the area of drug and alcohol dependency studies.

"Most research in drugs involves drug-seeking behaviour and drug self-administration because of the reward properties of the drug. Most people try to understand the mechanisms in the brain that mediate reward properties of the drug and compel the lab animal — or human addict — to engage in drug seeking behaviour. Basically, it is trying to understand what happens in the brain to create this kind of behaviour," says Amir, explaining the focus of the Centre's drug research.

Shimon Amir, Program Director,
M.A. in Experimental Psychology



On the other side, at the CRHD, research concentrates on three areas: studies of normal social development, studies of "atypical" development in children and cognitive processes in aging. Current projects include a long-term study on aging that began with the testing of a group of soldiers entering the forces during World War II. Studies on this group include social conditioning of alertness in old age and the effects of alcohol over a lifetime of drinking.

Other research projects involve cognitive processes in childhood obesity and preventative treatments in obese children, sex-differentiation and sex-role learning in early childhood and studies of children at risk of schizophrenia.

Amir says that students in Experimental Psychology can, in certain instances, also take an elective in the M.A. in Clinical Psychology.

"For the occasional student, the mix between Experimental and Clinical Psychology is a good one because the student will be able to do clinical research in the future. Today, with the heavy weight put on biological psychiatry, for example, the mix prepares students for work in that area."

But Amir adds that there are important differences between the experimental and clinical programs.

"At some points there is a crossover," he says, "but in the clinical program students learn a specific skill or profession. In the experimental program the focus is to train students to become scientists."

For further information on the M.A. in Experimental Psychology, please contact Shimon Amir at **(514) 848-2188** or write care of Concordia University at 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West, Montreal, Quebec H3G 1M8, Canada.

Diploma in sports administration

Concordia's Diploma in Sports Administration is riding a wave, and "we haven't even reached the top yet," says George Short, the program director.

The aim of the program is to give students an in-depth study of administrative theory focusing on the management of sports activities. Since its inception in 1978, the program has been growing and consolidating its reputation across Canada. According to Short, it is unique in the country. Other schools offer similar programs as specializations or electives within administration schools. Concordia, however, is the only university to offer a specialized program in the area. Graduates of Sports Administration can now be found in professional sports associations, such as the NHL and the Canadian Olympic Association, as well as in federal, provincial, municipal, community and private sports organizations.

"I believe there are a lot of opportunities for people in the area of Sports Administration as opposed to Physical Education. If a student has a strong business background, he or she will be successful. The best example I know is Greg Joy, a high-jumper who won a silver medal in the 1976 Olympics. He told me he would not have his current job with the YMCA if he had not had an administrative background, says Short."

The first place we made real inroads was with the National Hockey League. At one time we had four people working there from our program — including the director of public relations. We have two people working in key positions with the Canadian Olympic Association and the director of marketing for the Canadian Ski Association is one of our graduates. We have people working for college sports, for instance, Pat Sheahen who is a football coach at McGill."

The Sports Administration program is a one-year diploma mixing courses from the Faculties of Management, Finance, Accounting and Exercise Science. It is a 33 to 36 credit program with 18 credits in administrative courses and 12 credits from Exercise Science. Students also take three to six credits in electives.

Students entering the program must have a bachelor's degree, but there are no restrictions on what field they come from. And Short says they come from a variety of backgrounds.

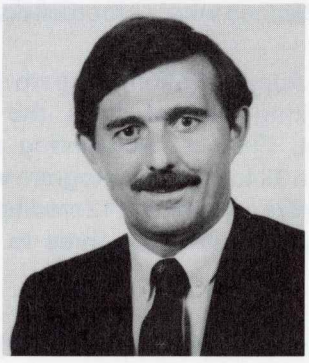
"We get people from commerce and arts programs — people who at some point in time decide they want to get involved with sports," he says. It's what I call the 'Peter Uberooff Principle' (Uberooff is the commissioner of major league baseball and organizer of the 1976 Olympics in Los Angeles — the first Olympic games to turn a profit). Everybody sees him and the success he has achieved, so suddenly everybody wants to jump in."

Like many programs at the diploma level, Sports Administration courses are offered in the late afternoon and early evening to accommodate part-time students. Short says this arrangement has proved popular with athletes who want to study while they are in training. This year the program is admitting a national athlete from Greece.

Towards the end of their studies, students also do an internship at some organization involved with sports management. In the past students have gone to work at the NHL, the CAO, community organizations and in government. But Short says the scope of possible internships is growing and widening.

"What we are finding now is we are moving away from traditional organizations. I have a woman who is working for a sports marketing firm. She's a communications graduate from Ontario who wants to go into public relations."

George Short, Program Director,
Diploma in Sports Administration



This year, Short hopes the program will begin to focus on sports marketing and fundraising. In the face of government cutbacks to sports organizations, he says these areas will become very important to future administrators.

"It's fine for high profile sports like skiing and hockey, but where does that leave archery? Sports that are not high profile would just disappear."

For further information on the Diploma in Sports Administration, please contact George Short at **(514) 848-3334** or write care of Concordia University at 7141 Sherbrooke Street West, Montreal, Quebec H4B 1R6, Canada.

Profile: VALERIE MCAFFER Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology

Valerie McAffer, a doctoral student in Clinical Psychology, has been at Concordia for some time. She came here for her M.A. in Clinical Psychology after finishing a bachelor's degree at Carleton University. She now has one year left of course work and a year's internship before receiving her Ph.D.

At Carleton, McAffer was involved in a major study of bulimia in women. (Bulimia is an eating disorder in which sufferers induce vomiting after eating binges). Now her research focuses on a study of women at high risk for schizophrenia and whether that risk can be transferred to children in the home environment.

Following her doctorate, McAffer hopes to do some teaching and establish a private practice or work with psychological patients in a hospital.

Valerie McAffer

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